British Consulate Rome June 21
1862

My dear Tom

You & I are such loving brothers that we are almost like twins & so I always feel a strong desire to make known to you my good & bad fortunes as in some way they may affect your own – Not that I have any more of the bad to tell you for of that you'll say "that poor Joe has had his lot"; but to communicate a very gratifying public letter I have just received from General Durando the Foreign Minister of the King of Italy thanking me for my services in liberating upwards of 55 of the majesty's subjects from

from the Roman Prisons, which you must understand I have not done officially but solely by good natured intercessions with the Roman ministers & trying to fascinate them "off their feet" – This I confess has been the great labour of my 1st years now Consulate & I am sending this letter original & translated to Earl Russell to show that the Italian Cabinet approves my efforts & that I have done even more than was expected of me – I hope that you are all well & happy as you all deserve to be & that you give my love to all your dear ones – Now I should like to pop into your arm chair & have a chat with you & Emma but this year I cannot although you have such sights – Your loving brother Joe